

RG-50.120*034

Eisner, Jakov

- 1.04 Jakov was born in 1904 in Czystochowa, Poland. His father was shot during WWI. As an eleven-year-old boy, he went to work on road construction in order to support his mother, sister and brother.
- 1.05 His work consisted of driving a wheelbarrow filled with sand, and having two Polish women fill the wheelbarrow to drive it to another destination. The women saw how young Jakov was and were kind to him by putting only half a load in the wheelbarrow. When a foreman saw what the women were doing, he told them to fill it up because he said, "the dirty Jew can pull the whole load." The foreman worked him very hard. Jakov asked who the foreman was and the women told him that he was a Jew who had converted to Christianity.
- 1.09 The next day, the foreman picked on him again, so Jakov picked up his shovel and hit the foreman on his head. He hurt the man and he had to be taken to the hospital. Two hours later, police came and arrested Jakov. Standing before the judge, Jakov told him that he hit the man because the foreman was trying to kill him with heavy work. The Polish women testified in favor of Jakov. The judge told Jakov to go to work a few days later and confronted the foreman while his head was bandaged. One day after coming home from work, he noticed an old Jew standing near the door of his apartment. The man hugged him and started to kiss him and explained that the injured foreman was his son who, having been beaten by such a small boy, decided to go back to Judaism. The old man offered to teach Jakov to be a carpenter. Jakov made a good living, was married, and had two children. During the Depression, he went to look for work in Paris and later returned to Poland where he became a businessman, selling chickens and geese until the war broke out in 1939.
- 1.19 Tells more about being in Israel and getting a telegram calling him to be a witness at a war criminal trial of S.S. men in Dusseldorf. These specific S.S. men were those who murdered Jews in Treblinka. He recognized two of the men who committed those crimes in Treblinka. Jakov was working emptying the trains that came in with the prisoners. In one wagon he heard a woman screaming from pain. She was giving birth on the floor. An S.S. officer came to her saying that he was a doctor and knew how to deliver babies. He jumped on her stomach and pushed with his boots on her stomach. The baby and the placenta came out the S.S. officer kicked the baby out of the train. Jakov ran away, not being able to stand what he saw. He didn't know what happened to the woman.
- 1.31 Now, Jakov tells the story from the beginning of the war in 1939. In 1940, a ghetto was established in Czystochowa. It was then ordered that Jews had to give up all of their valuables (gold, furs, etc.). Jakov got a job with the Jewish Council and worked in the Hasak slave camp. In 1942, on the holiest of Jewish days, Yom Kippur, in the evening, a Jewish man came running in and told them that the

- Ukrainians and S.S. were approaching. The men in the synagogue managed to escape. The women, sitting separately, did not know what was about to happen, and all of them were killed (25 women), including his mother. The murdered women were brought to the slaughterhouse. The following day, Jakov and other Jews took the bodies out and buried them.
- 1.37 The next day, a round up in the ghetto took place. 7,000 Jews were shipped to Treblinka. On the third transport, his wife and two children were taken. Jakov ran to the train to be with his wife. As they arrived in Treblinka, one of the prisoners told him to say that he was a carpenter, and he worked in the camp. He was also responsible for unloading the new arrivals from the trains. It was then that he saw the incident (described earlier) about the woman giving birth and having her child killed by the S.S. officer. Jakov planned an escape from Treblinka and succeeded by hiding in one of the graves when the bodies were burned. The blinding smoke provided him the opportunity to slide unseen under the fence and escape to the outside. During the night, he saw a light in a house. A Pole, thinking that he was a partisan, bought Jakov a ticket on the train to Warsaw so that he could join the partisans. When they arrived in Warsaw at night, Jakov dressed as a worker, and could not get out to the city due to the curfew. While waiting at the station, he heard an announcement for a train to Katowice. Before the train got to its destination, before Czestochowa, Jakov jumped off the train. On the way to the ghetto in Czestochowa, he noticed a group of working Jews. Their foreman included him into the group, thus, allowing Jakov to get back to the ghetto.
- 2.01 One evening, two Polish policemen in the company of S.S. men came and arrested him, again, and took him to Radom and Wloszczowa. On the train, two windows were open. He offered the policemen 600 zlotys that he had in his cigarette case and begged him to light his cigarette and shoot him when he was smoking. He asked him to kill him as if he were escaping because he did not want to suffer a terrible death in the camp. One of the policemen did not want his money and offered him his own cigarette. As the policeman turned around to use his lighter, Jakov (who was near the window) jumped out and rolled down an embankment. He was bleeding and his wrists were still tied with wires.
- 2.05 He approached a Polish home where a man ran after him, helped him, and cut the wires. Jakov finally got back to Hasak where the German foreman liked him. One of the German soldiers guarding the Hasak factory (Goering's Werke) asked him to tell the story about Treblinka. This particular German soldier fell in love with a Jewish girl and ran away with the girl to the partisans. After the war, he came to a Jewish community to be converted. One of the guys heard that he was German, took out a pistol and shot "this good German." As for Jakov, he stayed in Hasak until the end of the war. As the Russians approached, the Germans managed to transport all of the prisoners from Czestochowa to Germany except for Jakov and twelve of his friends. They escaped to the woods and were liberated by the Russians.

- 2.39 Jakov remained in a DP camp and then went to Israel (1956) where he remarried and had children.